

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and further examination of the present Application is requested. Claims 1-12 were pending and all were rejected. By this Amendment, Claims 13-14 are added, Claims 7-8 are amended, and Claims 1-6, 9-12 are canceled. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

The Title is amended to better reflect the subject matter of Claims 7-8 and 13-14.

The Drawings were objected to, e.g., Figs. 1-6, for not including legends for the principal elements. The Drawings have therefore been revised so that legends are included in the previously blank boxes. Standard abbreviations have been used in some cases to allow the legends to fit properly. The terminology was taken from the original Disclosure for each corresponding element. Three Replacement Sheets are included herein.

The rejections of Claims 6 and 12 under 35 USC 112, are now moot because such claims have been canceled.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-12 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Umemoto et al (US 5,636,323). The claim construction used in Claims 1-12 was too imprecise to differentiate the intended subject matter from the cited prior art. The cancellations to Claims 1-6 and 9-12, the amendments to Claims 7-8, and the newly added Claims 13-14 are intended to make clear that the high-pass filtering and soft limiting of the audio input from the remote telephone result in an acoustic echo that will be substantially from nonlinear components. Therefore, simple linear echo canceling can be very effectively employed to remove substantially all echoes that would otherwise be returned to the remote telephone in the audio output channel.

Umemoto '323 does not require its amplitude limiter 35 to be a soft limiter. From the text and drawings it appears to be a hard limiter that would tend to generate non-linear signal constituents at the cut-off knees. There also is no high pass filtering before such limiting. The Office Action says that "high-pass" filtering is inherent in A/D converter 6, but such is not the case. If anything, A/D converter 6 will have a limited high frequency response, and so would behave more like having an inherent low pass filter.

It can be seen in Umemoto '323 that the benefits of removing non-linear components from acoustic echo (EC) are not appreciated, NLP 34 (Fig. 2) is needed for non-linear filtering for the TS channel.

Claims 7, 8, 13, and 14 are now believed to be in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of the rejections appears to be appropriate. If any remaining issues can be addressed on the telephone, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (919) 226-6745.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. B. Main', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Date: May 16, 2007

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